

March 21, 1988

LB 764A
LR 337

opportunity to communicate their message to the nation; be it, therefore, resolved that the Legislature of Nebraska declares March 20-26 as Agriculture Week in Nebraska and March 20 as Agriculture Day...yesterday was Agriculture Day; I celebrated it with the weather, I hope each one of you did also...in conjunction with National Agriculture Week. That the Legislature urges all Nebraskans to honor and thank Nebraska farmers and ranchers by encouraging their support of and participation in National Agriculture Week in Nebraska. I will give you a little bit of history. In 1980, National Agriculture Day was designated an official national observance by the President and the Congress and we have celebrated it since. A few statistics that I am proud to read are that 2.2 million American farmers provide food and fiber for 251 million people. And, if you break that down, that's each farmer produces food and fiber for 114 other people and I think it's produced very reasonably. People in the United States can purchase their food for an average outlay of 14.4 percent of their after-tax income. This is down from about 20 percent, 25 years ago. And an interesting statistic as to what's happening in the United States, eating at home takes 9.7 percent of the after-tax income and eating out takes 4.7 percent. Farmers get 25 cents of the consumer's food dollar spent for food raised on the United States farm. That's again down from 32 cents, 20 years ago. On an average, a one pound loaf of bread contains 3.5 cents worth of wheat and a half cent worth of other farm products. Four cents of your local bread goes back to agriculture or agriculture related business. This is the last statistic I will read to you. Agriculture, in a broad sense, encompasses production inputs made for farmers, farming, itself, and the processing, transportation and retailing that move food and fiber from the farmers to consumers. The economic activity employs 21 million people and accounts for 17 percent of the nation's gross national product. I would encourage you to support this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the resolution. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 337.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Move on to General File, LB 764A.